

My dream for this College....

(Where do I see us in three years?)

A Bit about Acts 2 College

There is nothing like us in the Catholic Church at present. We aim to transform not just the student's knowledge base, but also the whole person - develop their relationship with Jesus Christ; strengthen their understanding of their faith and how to integrate it into their daily decision-making. We want them to be Catholic in thought, word and deed. Not just from knowing what to do, but by connecting so deeply with Christ that they want to make life choices consistent with their faith. We have witnessed some incredible transformations in the 50+ graduates, and all have changed in some way.

Convincing Catholics, especially young ones, that spending a year growing in faith and being skilled to pass it on to others is a tough call. We are passionate about what we are doing but are totally reliant on identifying people who are prepared to give up either a year to study fulltime or a few hours each week to study part time at our venue. We have been a face-to-face college for our whole 10 years and this has been deliberate as having an impact on people is a lot harder if you do not have regular personal contact with them. We are at a stage now where lay ministry is growing and training is not able to meet people where they are at – regional, outer suburbs, at university, in fulltime jobs. We have to develop a way of reaching these people and we can no longer rely on face to face. If we do, we will remain a small college with 6-10 students each year. We think God wants more than this, but could not see any way forward without funding.

Until last July, our college was staffed totally by volunteers – fulltime principal, four part-time trainers and a part-time bookkeeper. Last July, I employed Robert McWilliam two days a week to take over compliance and develop eLearning, initially setting up an LMS for internal students and then exploring options for going online. A person who tithes to the College for this purpose funds his salary. I have recently increased this work to three days but cannot afford to move Robert full-time. I also have a paid administrative assistant who works 8 hours a week.

Our business has expanded over the last two years since adding Certificate I and II in Active Volunteering, and the Certificate III in Christian Leadership and Ministry, all of which were added largely for the Catholic Secondary School market. This is going well, with one school signing and working with us in 2013, another three likely to come on board later this year and three more wanting appointments to discuss options for their schools. Although early days, I anticipate these partnerships are likely to be self-supporting in 2-3 years in terms of a staff member to oversee this VET in Schools (VETiS) program. In the meantime, that is an additional responsibility for me.

What is our dream?

You asked where I would like to see this College in three years?

- Well known within the wider Church – who we are and what we provide.
- Recognised by the wider Church (the Church hierarchy has already given its blessing) as a preferred provider of good quality Catholic vocational training, with our graduates and our qualifications respected.
- Accepted by young Catholics as a viable and worthwhile (gap) year

- Staffed by qualified workers, some full-time, who are paid award wages for the hours they work and the job they do.
- Extra staff to relieve the high teaching load currently borne by two of the existing trainers.
- Able to provide in-house and online training for all courses
 - Certificate I and II in Active Volunteering
 - Certificate III in Christian Leadership and Ministry
 - Certificate IV in Christian Ministry
 - Certificate IV in Screen and Media
 - Diploma of Youth Ministry
- 10-15 students in the classroom at Cert IV and Diploma levels.
- 100 per year students studying online at Cert I to Diploma level through Acts 2 College, either part-time or full-time
- Ongoing partnerships with Catholic (and other Christian) colleges with our Cert I to III courses, with some flow-on to our higher-level courses post school – 6-10 Colleges.
- An engaging, interactive and informative, user-friendly eLearning platform that not only reaches a wider range of people but presents in a manner that supports the objectives of the college – transforming lives.
- Opportunities for blended learning. Some parts of courses completed online, with the rest of the course being completed in face to face workshops
- Further reliable sources of donations to support the College Scholarship Fund and supplement income in the absence of external ongoing funding.

Our Current Resources – Staff

- The Principal (voluntary): Has set up the college and been working as a volunteer for the last ten years. She has excellent knowledge of compliance and management skills as well as the Catholic faith. The principal has completed a Master of Arts (Theological Studies). In terms of eLearning, has knowledge of what she wants to achieve but limited experience.
- Compliance/ ELearning Coordinator: 22.5 hours part time (Paid). Has broad range of skills in compliance and eLearning skills. He has completed a Master of Internet Studies (Internet Design). He has worked a relief teacher for a flex eLearning senior college for a term; set up Moodle and IT courses for his own RTO as one man operation; has experience online learning as a student as an adult (good and bad practices); and has knowledge of what multimedia can do and some experience in multimedia, but doesn't have a graphic design eye.
- Admin Assistant: 8 hrs. part time (Paid) Has an excellent knowledge of administrative procedures and is an extremely quick learner.
- Trainers (voluntary): Are all currently working in ministry. They have excellent knowledge of their subject matter. They currently fit in their training responsibilities with their other employment.